

VILLA IS DRIVING CARRANCISTAS SOUTH FROM SALTILLO REGION

Heavy Fighting in Progress For Some Time; Villa Himself Reported in Three Places, but Believed to Be in Monterey Directing Two Campaigns; the Gunboat Bravo to Aid Carranza in the Defence of Tampico.

BROWNVILLE, Tex., March 27.—The Villa drive of Matamoros, the Mexican town opposite here, began about noon today. Carrancistas opened heavy rifle fire on the headquarters of Villa at Matamoros near the Rio Grande. Simultaneously, the cavalry, totaling 5500 men, began spreading to surround the city on the west and south. A Villa officer told the Associated Press correspondent that artillery is due to reach the Villa line some time this evening.

VILLA forces have been successful in a series of hard fights south of Saltillo and the railroad leading to San Luis Potosi has been reopened for more than half of its length, according to passengers arriving here from Torreon. Although reports of this campaign have reached the border, the fighting has been severe, according to the news in Torreon, and has been in progress for two weeks. The Carrancistas who were opposing the march of the Villistas south were parts of the commands that evacuated Saltillo and San Luis Potosi some months ago. According to the reports received in Torreon, these bands have been doing great damage in raiding ranches and small towns.

Villa is variously reported with the advance guards at Matamoros and near Victoria in advance received here. The last official report received by Villa officials here stated that he had returned and was in Monterey to personally supervise the sending of reinforcements to Matamoros and that he had led the attack on the border town.

Bravo Busy at Matamoros. The gunboat Bravo will aid in the defence of Matamoros, according to a report received here by Carranza officials. The report states that the gunboat has been ordered to proceed north from Tampico as soon as it can be relieved by the Zaragoza, which has been sent to Tampico from Veracruz. The Bravo was recently partially dismantled and her guns mounted at Tampico, according to recent arrivals here from Veracruz, who stated that the boat has been used entirely as a transport for some weeks. The Bravo is the smallest of the gunboats on the coast.

Discusses Forces Active. A movement north from Matamoros by forces under the Carranza general, Miguel Alemán, is again reported by Carrancistas here. It is stated that the Carrancistas have already entered the state of Jalisco and that a concerted move against Guadalajara is planned. Carranza reports also state that Gen. Yagel Tobías is again active south of Torreon, and that the Torreon-Turkey line has been cut.

Villistas, on the other hand, state that train service has been reestablished for the entire distance from the border to Toluca, a point a few miles north of Mexico City. The tracks between this point and the capital are badly damaged, but a large force has been at work since the occupation of

the capital by Zapata repairing the line, and the reestablishment of communication is expected by the end of the month.

Samuelson Moving East. Col. Miguel Samuelson, who recently captured Mochizuma, Sonora, for the Carrancistas, is reported in Carranza advices to be moving east with the intention of crossing into Chihuahua. He is said to have 500 men and a number of small caliber cannon.

Arrival at Aguascalientes. The Carrancistas, southwest of Juarez, report all quiet in that section. Preparations for planting the largest crop ever sown at the colonies are now in progress, according to officials of the colonies. None of the filibusters who have long been active in northwestern Chihuahua have molested the colonies in weeks and it is believed that the bands have been dispersed.

Guadalajara Captured in Report. Guadalajara was captured Thursday by Carranza forces, according to a telegram received by Carranza officials here. The report states that the attack was led by Gen. Miguel Diegues. No details are given.

VILLA TROOPS APPROACH TO MATAMOROS'S GATES

San Antonio, Texas, March 27.—Advices received Friday night said a Villa army was within 10 miles of Matamoros. It was reported that Gen. Rodriguez was in personal command. Matamoros is held by a Carranza garrison which has completed an elaborate system of defenses. The attacking force has 27 field guns.

VILLA HAS ESTABLISHED SYSTEM OF JUDICIARY.

Washington, D. C., March 27.—That Gen. Villa has established a system of judiciary for handling civil court actions, is announced by the Villa agency here. The system, it is announced, covers the states of Chihuahua, Zacatecas, Coahuila, Durango, Aguascalientes, Jalisco, Michoacan, San Luis Potosi, Nuevo Leon and Sonora.

WOMAN BURNED IN EXPLOSION

Cleaning Clothes With Gasoline Causes a Serious Accident Saturday.

Cleaning clothes with gasoline caused an explosion at the home of R. F. Davis in Highland Park Saturday morning which burned Miss Deryl Long badly on the hands and body.

Miss Long was at her home, where she makes her home, when the explosion occurred and she was injured. She was known to have been cleaning clothes with gasoline on the back porch of the house, which is located at 1227 Ohio street. It is thought that the fumes from the gasoline were ignited by a fire in the house and the explosion followed.

Miss Long was badly burned on the hands, face and body and her clothing almost completely burned from her body. She was given medical attention at once and it is not thought that the burns will prove fatal.

The Highland Park fire department extinguished the flames, which were confined to the rear porch of the house, which is owned by Mr. Davis, who is connected with the Draughton Business college.

CARRANZA TROOPS EXECUTE CITIZENS OF MOCTEZUMA

Douglas, Ariz., March 27.—A number of residents of Moctezuma, Sonora, suffered death when the town was taken a few days ago by the Carranza forces of Col. Miguel Samuelson, according to advices received here. The town was plundered of about \$25,000 worth of money and goods. Ranches owned by Americans were looted, every head of livestock being taken away.

M. O. Medina, judge of the first instance of Moctezuma, was executed. His clerk, Leopoldo Herrera, and Cornelio Arizón, a wealthy citizen, also were shot after the Carranza garrison fled. Ten citizens of the town were killed in the fighting. Samuelson lost four of his force and 18 wounded.

No confirmation of the report that Moctezuma had been captured has been received here.

At American Wells, southeast of Hermosillo, the Sonora state capital, one American and nine Mexicans are reported to have been killed. Telegram wires in this section are cut as rapidly as they are repaired and Southern Pacific officials have been warned that their linesmen now carry on their work under guard.

"DON'T FIRE OVER BORDER" WARNING IS SENT MEXICANS

Brownsville, Texas, March 27.—Owing to grave apprehension that sharpshooters will fall in Brownsville in the battle expected at Matamoros, opposite here, Col. A. F. Blockhouse, commanding the United States border patrol here, today sent word to both forces to avoid firing in any manner to endanger American lives and property.

Matamoros, which is about a mile and a half from Brownsville, apparently was ready today for siege by the Carranza army of Gen. Villa, whose advance guard was within cannon shot of the city's outer defenses on the west. These defenses include a line of earth breastworks, 12 to 15 feet high, enclosing the city on two sides, west and south, while the Rio Grande curves around the other two sides.

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TO BE MEMORIAL TO WOMEN OF WAR

President and Former President Attend Red Cross Ceremonies.

Washington, D. C., March 27.—President Wilson and former president Taft here today took part in the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of the new Red Cross building which is to be erected as a memorial to the women of the civil war.

The new building is to be one of a group of stately structures—the Corcoran Art gallery, the Pan-American building and the Memorial hall of the Daughters of the American Revolution—facing the wide sweep of grounds back of the state department and white house.

With the Red Cross Home. The building, owned and operated by government appropriation and private subscription, will be turned over in perpetuity to the American Red Cross. Here the organization will make its permanent home, and the building will house all of the administrative offices in charge of Red Cross work. The plans and construction are under the control of a commission headed by president Wilson, with secretary Garrison, senator Luke Lea and representative Stuyvesant.

The commission has at its disposal \$100,000 of which \$100,000 was appropriated by congress, on condition that the Red Cross raise an equal amount by private subscription. The additional sum was made up by the following subscriptions: James A. Scripps, \$100,000; Mrs. Russell Sage, \$100,000; Mrs. Edward H. Harriman, \$100,000; the Rockefeller Foundation, \$100,000.

The new building, like most of the others in the state group about it, will be of white marble and the general design of the structure, its facade, columns, etc., will be on classic lines. A park terrace will raise the building above the street level, and wide marble steps will lead up to the entrance. A row of 12 Corinthian columns of white marble will stretch across the entire front of the structure, the capitals supporting the copper finished roof. Two massive bronze entrance doors are one of the striking features of the architectural plan.

Within the high-arched vestibule a flight of broad marble stairs will lead to the second and third floors. On the stairway landing a marble tablet will be placed bearing the following inscription:

Marble Tablet Bears Inscription. "A memorial built by the government of the United States and patriotic citizens to the women of the north and the women of the south held in loving memory by a new united country, and that their labors to mitigate the sufferings of the sick and wounded in war may be forever perpetuated, this memorial is dedicated to the service of the American Red Cross."

On this landing will also be placed three allegorical busts in white marble, representing Faith, Hope and Charity.

Of the \$200,000 available for the memorial, \$257,000 was expended by the commission in the purchase of the site. The entire block surrounding the structure was acquired and it will be laid out in parking, gardens and suitable approaches. Under the contract for construction of the building it will be completed and ready for occupancy by April 29, 1918.

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